

REMARKS

This amendment provides a completed claim 18 in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated April 22, 2005. Claims 18 was actually amended in Applicants' reply of January 10, 2005. Consequently, it is now designated as "Previously Presented" and the cancelled portion is omitted. In addition, the remarks in the amendment filed February 8, 2005 are amplified.

By the above amendment, new independent claim 24 is added. New claim 24 is similar to claim 1 except that the downcomer generally contains at least one packing between its upper portion and its lower portion. See, e.g., page 4, line 25 - page 5, line 29, especially page 4, lines 25 and 26. Thus, the packing is not restricted to the geometry of the prior claims at issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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